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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

In Today's Papers

Leave Iran Aside and Look at Israel (Radikal)  
Media note that Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has publically extended support to Iran and criticized Israel, despite President Obama's public announcement in Pittsburg that Iran has kept its Qum nuclear facility hidden from the international community. Mainstream Hurriyet notes, "The Prime Minister said in New York, 'There are countries in the Middle East which have nuclear weapons, for example Israel. Moreover, phosphorus bombs were used in Gaza. What is this called? A weapon of mass destruction. Nobody talks about those. Instead we are talking about Iran over and over again.'" Mainstream Milliyet reports in, "Look at Israel First," that Erdogan noted "Israel possesses nuclear weapons but does not receive the same reactions as Tehran's nuclear program." Mainstream pro-government Sabah reports in "We Don't Want Nuclear Weapons," that, "Erdogan made important statements at his arrival in Istanbul. Replying to a question, Erdogan said that they did not receive a proposal on mediation in regard to Iran's nuclear program." However, the paper notes Erdogan said, "We are against nuclear weapons. But there is a country in the Middle East which has nuclear weapons as well and it is Israel. But this issue is not on the table." Mainstream Vatan headlines, "The Turkish Premier: An Attack on Iran is Insanity," and the paper notes the PM said, "launching a military attack on Iran would be a crazy move given the situation in Iraq after the U.S. invasion," and an attack "would be very very wrong. Iraq should have taught us a lesson. We need to ask ourselves: 'What did we achieve in Iraq?' The answer is that a civilization has collapsed and over a million people have been killed in the country." Conservative nationalist Turkiye headlines, "Iraq Should Be a Lesson," in reference to the possibility of military intervention in Iran, which the paper reports, "Erdogan said attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would lead to a new nightmare in the world."

Editorial Opinion on Iran and G-20

Mehmet Yilmaz wrote in mainstream Hurriyet: "PM Erdogan tried to clarify rumors regarding Turkey's purchase of missiles. However he made things even more confusing by noting the short range missile launchers possessed by Greece. In that case, we should assume that this missile purchase will be targeting Greece which brings an odd

picture since we are also trying to join the EU club and Athens is already in it."

Ceyda Karan wrote in liberal Radikal: "As President Obama's UNGA speech showed, Washington has given up hope on Israeli changing or softening its position on Palestine. It looks like, Washington once again will try to convince Arabs and will try to change their attitude."

Hakan Albayrak wrote in Islamist oriented Yeni Safak: "It was a good relief that Turkey stood by Iran on the nuclear issue despite all kinds of international pressure. Prime Minister Erdogan made wonderfully courageous remarks by highlighting the injustice and unfairness against Iran. It is very true that entire world is talking about Iran's nuclear weapons while others, like Israel, are not even mentioned."

Omer Taspinar wrote in mainstream Sabah: "Given the recent developments, Iran has to be transparent and be persuasive vis-à-vis the international community for aiming peaceful means. Otherwise, within the next three months, the international community i.e. UNSC is going to discuss serious sanctions against Iran. Unlike previous times, Russia is closer to the idea of sanctions. In this regard, Turkey's position will be critically important. Let's hope that Ankara's strategic stance does not go side by side with China."

Ali Aslan wrote in Islamist oriented Zaman: "Iran's enrichment program has set the scene in the G-20 and the upcoming 5+1 meeting is now more critical than ever. Iran's recent effort toward uranium enrichment diminishes President Obama's hope for more dialogue for

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the nuclear problem. At the same time, Turkey's position on this issue has become more important because Turkey is playing in the first league of politics, and is part of the UNSC. Ankara's main policy line desires integration both to Western system as well as to Islamic world. When UNSC starts debating sanctions against Iran, Turkey will have to make a policy choice. That is a natural risk when a country becomes a player of the first league."

Erdogan-Obama Meet on the Sidelines of G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh  
Weekend papers give extensive front-page coverage to a brief meeting between Prime Minister Erdogan and President Obama at the end of the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh. Sunday's mainstream Hurriyet says that at the end of the meeting, Obama asked Erdogan to stay, and for 15 minutes, the two discussed "regional issues of importance for Turkey," including the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Erdogan asked the Minsk Group to take a more active role to facilitate the process. Obama said he was aware of the importance of Nagorno Karabakh in solving disagreements between the two countries. Liberal Radikal says that in a "brief, but substantial" meeting, the situation between Israel and Palestine as well as between Syria and Iraq were taken up. Radikal says the meeting took place on the eve of Erdogan's planned trip to Tehran in October or early November. Mainstream Aksam claims the discussions focused not on the problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but on Iran's nuclear ambitions. Before the meeting with Obama, Erdogan held a meeting with Russian President Medvedev, notes Aksam.

Talabani: Iraq Won't Open Its Airspace to Attacks on Iran  
Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet reports Iraq's President Jalal Talabani said Iraq would not allow "Israel or another country" to use the Iraqi airspace or territories in attacks on Iran. Talabani also defended new sanctions to be imposed by the UN would not change the attitude of Tehran. Cumhuriyet also reports Secretary Clinton has welcomed Tehran's decision that a new nuclear site in Iran would be open to inspection.

Turkey-Armenia Protocols to be Signed October 10 (Sabah)  
Mainstream Sabah reported Saturday that the protocols for the normalization of Turkey-Armenia ties would be signed October 10 in Zurich or Bern, with the participation of Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian and Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) will send the documents to the parliament for ratification without delay before the Turkish and Armenian soccer

teams meet for a World Cup qualifier in Bursa on October 14. Sabah expects the ratification of the protocols to be raised in parliament after the game in Bursa.

Monday's mainstream Aksam carries an Agence France-Presse (AFP) report in which an unnamed source in Ankara said the "agreement for normalization" will be signed in Zurich on October 10.

The German Election Results Are Not Good News for Turkey  
Media note that the Turkey will continue to face opposition to its EU bid now that Merkel has been reelected in Germany. Mainstream Hurriyet writes "Angela Merkel, who is against Turkey's EU bid, was able to maintain her seat despite the economic crisis."  
Islamist-oriented Zaman called the outcome of the German elections, "Risky for Turkey."

TV News (CNN Turk)

Domestic

Q Prime Minister Erdogan is expected to visit Iraq in October to join the second meeting of Turkey-Iraq Strategic Cooperation Council.

Q The Chief of the military General Staff (TGS), General Ilker Basbug, visits Madrid to meet Spanish counterpart Jose Julio Rodriguez Fernandez.

Q Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said Turkey and Russian natural gas

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company Gazprom were going to cooperate in gas exploration in northern Iraq.

Q Istanbul's Sisli Mayor Mustafa Sarigul chaired Sunday the first meeting of his newly founded party, Turkey Change Movement, and addressed a crowd of supporters.

Q 12 suspects are taken into custody for preparing fake medical reports for exemption from compulsory military service.

World

Q Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in New York to discuss the normalization process between Turkey and Armenia. The two foreign ministers will come together in Moscow on October 8.

Q Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh, Iran's representative in the IAEA, says Western reactions to Iran's nuclear facility would adversely affect their talks with the 5+1, slated for October 1.

Q Iran test-fires three short-range ground-to-ground missiles shortly after the UN nuclear watchdog disclosed it was building a second uranium enrichment plant.

Q Libyan leader Gaddafi has canceled a planned visit to Canada this week.

Q 19,000 people working in the automotive sector in the Czech Republic lose their jobs over the last one year.

JEFFREY